

Safety-Gram

Installation Safety Office

Teen Driving

June 4, 2009

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) mission is keeping families safe on America's roadways. Young drivers, ages 15- to 20-years old, are especially vulnerable to death and injury on our roadways – traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in America. Mile for mile, teenagers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers.

It's not just good parenting; it's a matter of life and death. You need to talk to your kids about traffic safety early and often – before they reach driving age. As the parent, you can start by modeling safe driving behavior anytime you drive your kids anywhere. When your teenager begins driving, recommend you set rules and then clearly outline the consequences of breaking the rules. Remind your teenage that driving is a privilege – a privilege they will lose if they don't drive by your rules. Spell out the rules:

- Absolutely No Alcohol
- Seat Belts: Always Buckle Up!
- Cell Phone Use – No talking or texting while driving.
- Curfew – Have the car in the driveway by 10 p.m.
- Passengers – no more than one at all times



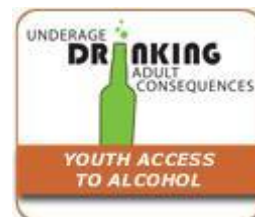
Know the Causes.

Research shows which behaviors contribute to teen-related crashes. Inexperience and immaturity combined with speed, drinking and driving, not wearing seat belts, distracted driving (cell phone use, loud music, other teen passengers, etc.), drowsy driving, nighttime driving, and other drug use aggravate this problem.

Seat Belt Use - Teens buckle up far less frequently than adults do. Despite efforts aimed at increasing belt use among teens, observed seat belt use among teens and young adults (16 to 24 years old) stood at 76 percent in 2006* – the lowest of any age group. In fact, in 2006 the majority (58%) of young people 16 to 20 years old involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes were unbuckled. (*Latest statistics available)

Technology - Teenagers appear to use new technology at a greater rate than older people do. Younger drivers ages 16-24 use hand-held cell phones at a higher rate than older drivers. Younger drivers are less experienced at multitasking while driving and are therefore more easily distracted than their older counterparts.

Youth Access to Alcohol - Teens are at far greater risk of death in an alcohol-related crash than the overall population, despite the fact they cannot legally purchase or publicly possess alcohol in any State. Parental responsibility is key to educating and protecting our teens against alcohol-related crashes.



For additional information contact: Your Unit Additional Duty Safety Officer, or Your Unit Collateral Duty Safety Officer, or Installation Safety Office - 878-3740